



ALEXANDER FORTIE AND  
RACHEL HOWARTH FORTIE  
GILES



Rachel Howarth Fortie Giles was born April 19, 1850, in Boulton, Lancashire, England. She is the daughter of John Howarth and Ellen Monks Howarth. She married Alexander Fortie on December 31, 1868, in the old Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah. He contracted pneumonia and died April 23, 1890. In March, 1893, she married William M. Giles, a widower with a family of 10 children, eight of whom lived at home. The youngest was only five years old.

Rachel Howarth Fortie Giles died in He-

ber City, Utah, January 5, 1943, age 93.

At the age of 18, Rachel Howarth came to Utah from Lancashire, England, with her mother's family. She was but four years of age when her father died, so that she grew to womanhood without the protecting care of a father.

Like the other members of the family, and at an early age had to go out to service and work to help her mother maintain the home. She was the tenth child in a family of twelve and had one sister and a brother younger than she. She was betrothed to Alexander Fortie in England, and he came to Utah a year before to earn money to send for her. She was a very beautiful and attractive young girl, with dark hair and sparkling black eyes, and always dressed in neat and becoming clothing. Mr. Fortie was employed on the railroad at Echo, Utah, and the Howarth family went to Wanship to reside. Rachel had many boy friends call to see her and was a favorite among the younger class. Upon hearing of this, Alexander left his work, came to Wanship, and they were married December 31, 1868, in the old Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah. Soon after, they moved to Heber City and established a home. Alexander found employment as a carpenter and made a comfortable living from then on. Many of the substantial buildings in Heber City stand as monuments of his labor, particularly the Wasatch Stake Tabernacle, of which he was the architect, and under his direction and supervision it was erected. He contracted pneumonia and died April 23, 1890, leaving Rachel a widow with her three children, two daughters and a son. The two daughters married, leaving Rachel and her son, John A., at home.

In March, 1893, she married William M. Giles, a widower with a family of ten children, eight of them at home and the youngest only five years of age. This was a tremendous undertaking for her, but she tackled the job with a determination to make a comfortable home for her husband and his motherless children, which she accomplished very well. She and her husband provided for them until all of them had homes of their own. The flour bin and bread can were never empty.

Rachel Howarth Fortie Giles died in Heber City, Utah, January 5, 1943.